REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-112 were previously pending in this application. Claims 6, 19 and 71-76 have been amended. Claims 113-117 have been added. Applicant submits no new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 6, 19 and 71-76 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Those claims have been amended to overcome this rejection and they are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-13, 19-31, 37-48, 54-65 and 71-76 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,659,742 to Beattie ("Beattie").

The Beattie reference does not disclose several elements that are recited in the claims. First, Beattie dose not disclose the reconciliation of data between a plurality of data sources. This feature is specifically recited in independent claims 7, 12, 19, 25, 42, 47, 59, 64, and 74-76. Beattie, and in particular the Figures cited by the Examiner, instead discloses a system comprised of only one database (item "118" in Figure 1). Although that database receives information from various publishers ("112"), it does not reconcile that data, but instead re-formats it to fit within the database (see col. 11, lines 16-24 of Beattie). In fact, the Beattie reference nowhere recites the comparison of multiple data sources for the purposes of reconciliation.

Similarly, with regard to Figure 2 of Beattie, the system works solely with one data source by searching a single "database index." With regard to Figure 5A of Beattie, the specification shows a data structure of that single data source database index. Figure 6B of Beattie has nothing to do with multiple data sources or reconciliations but instead illustrates search rankings. Finally, Figures 7A and 7B of Beattie have nothing to do with reconciliation for a plurality of any data sources, but instead use the Markov model to determine parts of the speech; this is parsing, not reconciliation. None of these figures show the reconciliation of data between data sources.

Thus, for independent claims 7, 12, 19, 25, 42, 47, 59, 64 and 74-76, the Beattie reference does not disclose the reconciliation of data between a plurality of data sources as recited in those claims. As a result, Applicant respectfully asserts that all those independent claims, as well as the dependent claims that depend from those claims, are not anticipated by Beattie.

The Beattie reference also does not disclose the decomposition of data based on data source configuration objects as recited in independent claims 6 and 71-73. At best, Beattie reformats a search request from one format to another. Beattie teaches the reformatting of a request in the hopes of matching the reformatted request against data in a singular data source database; as such the noted excerpt of "converting the natural language search into language the computer can understand – Figure 2" is merely query reformatting and different from decomposing data based on configuration objects.

Thus, for independent claims 6, 19 and 71-73, the Beattie reference does not disclose the decomposition of data based on data source configuration objects as recited in those

claims. As a result, Applicant respectfully asserts that all those independent claims, as well as the dependent claims that depend from those claims, are not anticipated by Beattie.

Finally, Beattie does not disclose the implementation of its system using object architecture. This type of programming, which allows greater flexibility when implementing features of the recited claims, is either directly or indirectly claimed in independent claims 1, 6, 7, 19, 20, 25, 37, 42, 54, 59 and 71-76. As a result, Applicant respectfully asserts that all those independent claims, as well as the dependent claims that depend from those claims, are not anticipated by Beattie.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 14-18, 32-36, 49-53 and 66-70 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Beattie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,286,006 to Bharat. Since these claims all depend from independent claims that are distinct from Beattie as described above, it is respectfully asserted that these claims are not obvious in view of Beattie and Bharat.

Telephone Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for participating in a telephone interview on October 13, 2004. Based on this interview, Applicant has added independent claims 113-117, which further recite novel features of the invention and are clearly distinct over the references cited by the Examiner.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-117 overcome all rejections and/or objections noted in the office action, are patentable over and discriminated from the cited references, and are in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, the cited references do not teach each and every element in the asserted claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the

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rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn. Applicant notes that the Examiner had no objections or rejections with regard to claims 77-112, which were added in the preliminary amendment of July 12, 2001, and therefore said claims are understood to have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In view of these remarks, an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.
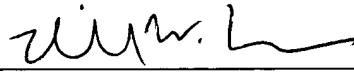
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3984-4008.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3984-4008.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: October 19, 2004   By: _____

Richard W. Erwine
Registration No. 41,737

Correspondence Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281
(212) 415-8700 (telephone)
(212) 415-8701 (facsimile)

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